

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Political science focuses on fundamental questions that go to the heart of the human experience. Political science students study critical issues such as war and peace, international affairs, environmental challenges, poverty and racism, and the struggles of oppressed peoples. Such study prepares students for various careers by building analytical and writing skills while encouraging independent thought, respect, and interest in current affairs. Graduates commonly work in fields such as law and government, nonprofit organizations, teaching, journalism, international organizations, business, and election campaigns.

The Public Policy track was designed for students who specifically desire to pursue careers in public policy and/or public administration in the public or nonprofit sectors. This track emphasizes the specifically political aspects of public policy processes, settings and is grounded in basic political science theory and familiarity with American, Comparative and International politics. Courses will emphasize key policy issues confronting U.S. local, state and national decision makers and citizens. A focus on politics and the policy-making process will prepare students conceptually and methodologically to move beyond partisan politics to address how leaders can best mobilize resources to achieve constituent goals consistent with the public interest.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) supports students to graduation using a shared advising system. CLAS students have two academic advisors with whom they should meet regularly to discuss academic and degree progress: a CLAS Academic Advisor and a major advisor.

For questions related to CU Denver Core Curriculum, CLAS, general graduation requirements, university/college academic policies, or campus resources contact:

CLAS Academic Advising

clas.advising@ucdenver.edu

Find your CLAS Advisor [here](#)

North Classroom (NC) 1030

303-315-7100

For questions related to major requirements, major course prerequisites, or evaluation of transfer coursework in your major contact:

Political Science Major Advising

[CLAS Major Advisor Contact Information](#)

Visit the program website [here](#)

Student Commons Building (SCB) 3212

303-315-1770

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CLAS students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements to be eligible to apply for graduation:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 credit hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete a minimum of 30 upper-division (3000- to 4000-level) credit hours
4. Complete all CU Denver Core, CLAS, and major requirements
5. Complete a minimum of 30 CLAS credit hours with letter grades at CU Denver

*The following are **maximum** credit hours that can apply toward the minimum 120 hours required for graduation:*

- 16 credit hours Pass/Fail
- 12 credit hours of Independent Study/Directed Research
- 12 credit hours of internship credit
- 8 credit hours of physical education credit

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting with the major advisor to confirm major requirements. In addition to completing all CU Denver Core and CLAS requirements, students completing the Political Science - Public Policy B.A. Degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 39 credit hours from approved courses.
2. Students must complete a minimum of 21 upper division (3000-level and above) credit hours from approved courses.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of C- (1.7) in all courses that apply to the major and must achieve a minimum cumulative major GPA of 2.0. Courses taken using P+/P/F or S/U grading cannot apply to program requirements.
4. Students must complete a minimum of 15 PSCI credit hours with CU Denver faculty.
5. Students with significant pre-existing political or civic engagement experience in the community, or for whom the experiential learning requirement poses a hardship may petition the chair to waive the experiential-learning requirement; the overall requirement of 39 credit hours for Political Science graduation will still apply.

LYNXCONNECT RESOURCES

Are you interested in learning about internship, study abroad, career, and research opportunities for this major? Visit the CU Denver LynxConnect, located in Tivoli Student Union (TV) Suite 339, and browse the LynxConnect [website](#) for more information.



Degree Requirements	Credits	Notes
* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *		
CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements	34 - 40	CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements
CLAS Graduation Requirements		CLAS Graduation Requirements
PSCI Major Requirements	39	<i>21 credit hours must be upper-division</i>
PSCI Required Courses		
PSCI 1001 Intro to Political Science: The Quest for Freedom & Justice	3	<i>Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Social Sciences</i>
PSCI 1101 American Political System	3	<i>Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Social Sciences</i>
PSCI 2011 Logic of Political Inquiry	3	<i>Students must complete this within first 24 credit hours of the program</i>
Complete One Political Theory Course	3	<i>*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>
Complete One American Politics Course	3	<i>*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>
Complete One Comparative Politics and International Relations Course	3	<i>*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>
Complete Two Public Policy and Administration Courses	6	<i>*See department list. Check individual courses for prerequisites.</i>
PSCI Major Electives	9	
Experiential Learning Course PSCI 3000 Topics: Conference Participation or PSCI 3840/4840 Independent Study or 3914 The Urban Citizen or PSCI 3939 Internship or PSCI 4880 Directed Research or PSCI 4914 Community Organizing and Community Development or PSCI 4934 CU at the Capitol or PSCI 4995 Global Study	3	<i>An exception to this requirement may be made by the department. See PSCI advisor for more information.</i>
PSCI Capstone Course PSCI 4960 Capstone in Political Science	3	<i>*Students must have completed 27 Political Science (PSCI) credits with a C- or higher in order to register.</i>
Estimated General Electives	41 - 47	<i>General Elective credit hours will vary. Students are highly encouraged to explore and complete additional programs including certificates, minors, double-majors, and dual-degrees. Consult with CLAS Academic Advisor.</i>
Total Minimum Credit Hours:	120	<i>30 credit hours must be upper-division</i>

SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as certificates, minors, double-majors, or dual-degrees.

Year 1 - Fall	CRS
ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3
CU Denver Core Mathematics – MATH 2830 <i>recommended</i>	3
PSCI 1001 ^C	3
CU Denver Core Arts	3
General Elective / First-Year Seminar	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 1 - Spring	CRS
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3
PSCI 1101 ^C	3
PSCI 2011	3
CU Denver Core Humanities	3
CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science with lab	4
Total Credit Hours	16

Year 2 - Fall	CRS
PSCI Public Policy and Administration Course	3
CU Denver Core Behavioral Science	3
CU Denver Core Nat/Phys Science without lab	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 2 - Spring	CRS
PSCI Public Policy and Administration Course	3
CU Core Denver Cultural Diversity ^M	3
Upper-Division General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 3 - Fall	CRS
PSCI American Politics Course	3
CU Denver Core International Perspectives ^M	3
Upper-Division General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 3 - Spring	CRS
PSCI Political Theory Course	3
PSCI Comparative Politics and International Relations Course	3
Upper-Division General Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	2
Total Credit Hours	14

Year 4 - Fall	CRS
PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course	3
PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course	3
General Upper-Division Elective	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

Year 4 - Spring	CRS
PSCI Experiential Learning Course	3
PSCI Capstone Course	3
PSCI Upper-Division Elective Course	3
General Elective	3
General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours	15

^M Major Course Available ^C CU Denver Core Course ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended